'dual use' goods and technologies to India's civilian nuclear programme, although policy-related restrictions continue to remain in place. India and the United States have initiated five programmes related to nuclear safety. Exchange of visits by U.S and Indian nuclear regulatory officials has also commenced.

(b) India and France are cooperating in a number of areas related to nuclear safety. There have been discussions on cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

Passports pendency at RPO, Hyderabad

3078. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a vast backlog of passport applications in Hyderabad;

(b) the number of applications presently pending with the RPO, Hyderabad;

(c) whether it is a fact that passports are issued at a leisurely pace at Hyderabad;

(d) whether any inspection has been done of the general atmosphere of the office; and

(e) if so, the details of such an inspection report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):(a) No.

(b) The number of applications pending with Passport Office, Hyderabad as on 30.7.2003 is 262.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Passport Office, Hyderabad was inspected on 24.4.2003 by the Secretary in charge of the Central Passport Organisation.

Proposed measures for foreigners entering USA

3079. SHRI P. PRABHAKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. administration would make finger printing and photographing mandatory for all visa-carrying foreign visitors entering U.S.A. from January, 2004;